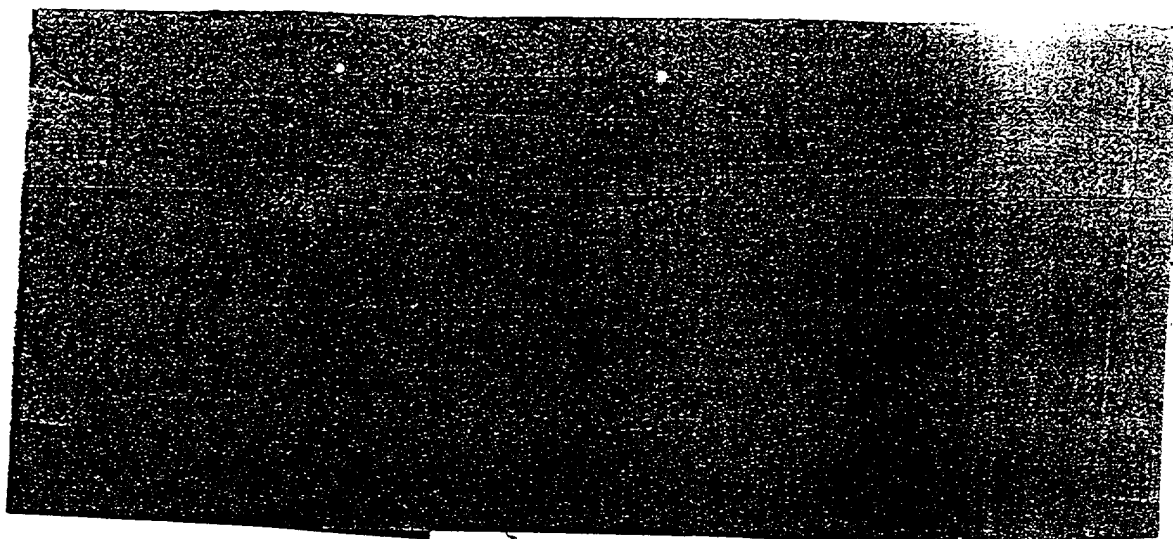


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NOT RELEVANT
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10.

Venezuelan-Cuban Relations Deteriorate: Cuban President Dorticos' insistence on a visit to Caracas--limited to 6-8 June by the Venezuelan Government--has further strained relations between the two countries. President Betancourt presented conditions for the visit which he considered prohibitive, including Dorticos' agreement to avoid political statements, contacts with political groups, and participation in demonstrations which might be exploited by pro-Castro elements in opposition to the Venezuelan regime. According to Betancourt's press secretary, Dorticos made the trip on the personal orders of Fidel Castro.

The Venezuelan Government restricted its reception and program for Dorticos to a bare minimum required by formal protocol. Although Betancourt met for four hours with the Cuban President, he did not keep his appointment at a special reception at the Cuban Embassy, and a scheduled press conference for Dorticos was canceled. Pro-Castro crowds, mostly student groups, were present at Dorticos' public appearances but did not provoke any serious security problems. Betancourt, who has made a number of strong anti-Communist statements recently, reportedly considered the students Communists.

In addition to the political differences between Betancourt and Castro, which have intensified recently, a serious economic problem arose on the eve of Dorticos' arrival as a result of Cuba's program to import a substantial quantity of Soviet oil during the remainder of 1960. These imports will replace about 43 percent of Venezuelan petroleum exports to Cuba, which normally obtains almost all its requirements from Venezuela.

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